

TWO INTERESTING *SULCOMESITIUS* SPECIES FROM AFRICA
(HYMENOPTERA : BETHYLIDAE)

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Abstract

Two *Sulcomesitius* Móczár species are recorded from Middle and South Africa: *S. consimilis* Móczár and *S. townesianus*, n. sp.

1. *Sulcomesitius consimilis* Móczár, 1970

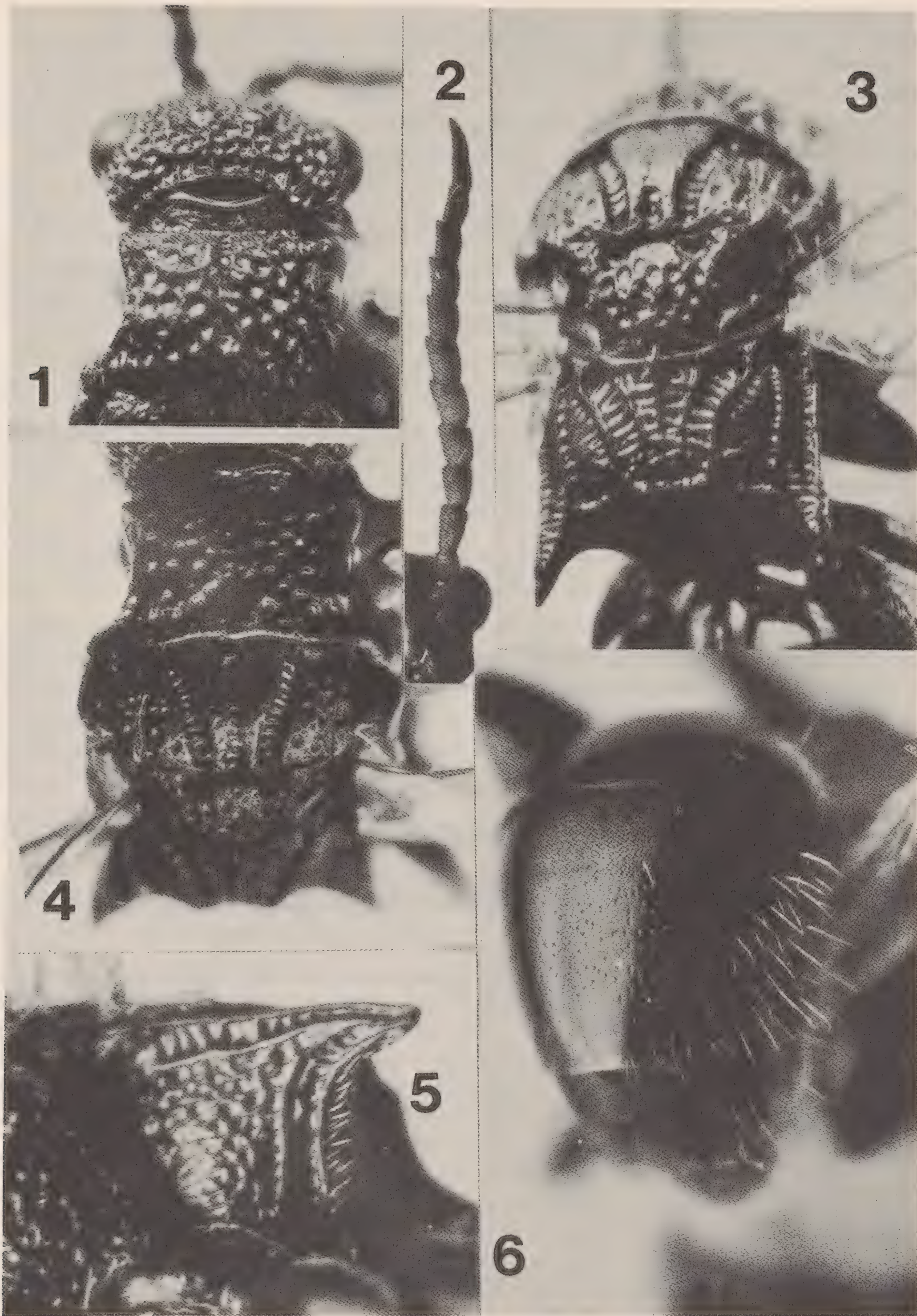
Speciman: 1 M, Kurger Natl. Park Pretoriushop 21.II.1968, K. V. Krombein (Paratype no. 255).

Distribution: South Africa: Umtata, Port St. John, Cape Province (Moczár 1970).

2. *Sulcomesitius townesianus*, n. sp.

Male: Length 4.6 mm. Black, mandibles, clypeus, antennal joints reddish brown, lower side lighter, upper side darker; upper side of scape and top of joints 3-10 more or less with black spots, last 3 joints entirely black; articulating parts of legs dark brown; top of tibiae, tarsal joints, as well as, abdominal segments 3-6 yellowish brown. Wings normal, fore wings only weakly brownish infuscated with broad lighter band in distal half and outside of cells, veins brown. Body sparsely covered with short light hairs, antennae with very short brownish hairs.

Head as long as broad including eyes (28:27) wider and parallel behind eyes, posterior margin nearly straight with very deep and depressed occipital margin (Fig. 1), latter with a row of larger punctures; ocelli in a right angle, POL:OOL = 4:6, hind ocelli separated from occiput by the length of OOL (6:6), outer margins of ocelli with narrow grooves; frontal sulcus not developed; head coarsely and densely punctured; anterior margin of clypeus semicircularly rounded and raised as a longitudinal sharp and high keel medially; eye rather convex, hardly longer than wide (11:10), separated from mandible by hardly longer of its half length (6:5.5) and separated from occiput by twice the length of POL. Antennae unusually thick, joints generally only slightly longer than thick, joint 7 as long as broad, inner sides of joints 3-10 (especially 4-7) curved, outer side straight, outer tips of these joints acute, inner ones nearly rectangular (Fig. 2), length (and breadth) proportions of joints 1-13 = 9.5/4/: 4/3/: 5.5/4/: 6/5/: 5.5/5/: 6/5.5/: 5/5/: 5.5/4/: 5/3/: 5/3/: 4.5/3/: 4.5/3/: 6/3/. Pronotum slightly longer than half broad in front (13:23) (including anterior corners), anterior corners in front sharply triangularly, protruding owing to wrinkle emerging in lateral side and reaching corners (Figs 1, 4), lateral sides of pronotum concave up to middle and diverging backwards (seen from above), posterior margin only weakly arched, surface very coarsely and deeply punctured, with larger punctures than vertex, longitudinal furrow deep and narrow especially in front (Fig. 1). Mesonotum shagreened, weakly shining with some smaller punctures, notaulices broad, very deep here sharply cross wrinkled (Fig. 4) and sharp margined, parapsidal furrow weakly developed, mesonotum outsides notaulices with larger scattered punctures, longitudinal furrow broad and deep, present only posteriorly (Fig. 3). Mesonotum well



Figs. 1-6. *Sulcomesitius townesianus*, n. sp. male:
 1, head, pronotum. 2, antenna. 3, mesonotum-propodeum.
 4, pronotum-mesonotum. 5, lateral aspect of propodeum.
 6, abdomen.

separated from scutellum by a transverse groove and by a pair of pits at its base laterally. Scutellum shagreened only basally without median sulcus and with deeper larger punctures on its whole surface. Dorsal surface of propodeum strongly sculptured, and well separated and transversal wrinkled central, sublateral and lateral areas (Fig. 3), propodeum as long medially as half breadth of disc transversally (14:14), lateral sides parallel only spines slightly divergent, lateral spines very acule and conspicuously long, nearly as long as three-fourth length of propodeum medially (10) (Fig. 3), lateral sides of propodeum with dense larger punctures and with a deep sulcus along hind, as well as, upper margin, the latter runs up to tip of spine (Fig. 5). Episternum deeply coarsely and irregularly punctured with a diagonal impression.

Abdomen smooth shining, tergite 1 polished with scattered distinct punctures medially and laterally, tergite 2 granulated on its one-third part basally, with distinct, rather deep but more scattered punctures medially (Fig. 6), with more dense punctures laterally and polished before posterior margin only medially. Last tergites alutaceous basally and finely punctured distally. Sternite 2 deeply and densely punctured.

Holotype: M, Uganda: Ankole Kichwamba, IV. 23-29. 1968, P. J. Spangler (Washington, USNM Type No. 100681).

This new species together with *S. crassiantennis* Móczár, 1976 differ from all other species of the genus *Sulcomesitius* Móczár by its remarkably thick antennae and easy to distinguish from the latter by lateral spines of propodeum not stumpy, by head not converging behind eyes, by ocelli not in obtuse angle, by size and proportions of some antennal joints, by tergite 2 with more scattered punctures, etc.

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